(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to order for an enquiry into the passports reportedly obtained by producing fake documents; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check the production of fake documents like ration cards, bank passbooks etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) The Passport Office at Bangalore had recently suspected that fake documents were being used to apply for passports and reported the matter to the police.

(b) Enquiries conducted by Passport Office, Bangalore regarding the 28 passports seized by the police have determined that they were not obtained on the basis of fake documents.

(c) The Passport Office, Bangalore is cooperating fully with the police to identify the instances of fake documents. The officials in the Passport Office have been instructed to exercise more vigilance in this regard.

Smuggling of Indians Abroad

3323. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked various Intelligence agencies in the country to investigate multi crore racket of organised smuggling of Indians abroad;

(b) if so, the *modus operandi* of such racket;

(c) whether there is involvement of embassy staff and airlines posted abroad; and

(d) if so, by when full facts in this regard would be brought to light?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Getting passports and visas through unscrupulous agents

†3324. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people who wish to go abroad and they sell their property etc. and get passport and visa through unscrupulous agents and on being caught everything is found fake;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.